In addition, it has also been decided to set up a National Skill Development Mission under which 1500 new ITIs and 50,000 Skill Development Centres are planned in Public Private Partnership mode.

Requirement of aircrafts for the Navy t*192. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the

Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the number of reconnaissance and 'Sea-Harrier' aircrafts has decreased continuously;

if so, the number of aircrafts, engaged in the work of reconnaissance, destroyed so far including 'Sea-Harrier' aircrafts;

whether requirement of reconnaissance and 'Sea-Harrier' aircrafts has become more relevant for Navy in the present context; and

if so, the steps Government is taking to meet the requirement of reconnaissance and 'Sea-Harrier' aircrafts for the Navy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Government constantly review the security environment and accordingly decide to induct appropriate equipment including aircraft for Navy for adequate defence preparedness. Reconnaissance aircraft are required for maritime surveillance. Sea Harrier aircraft are used for air defence of the fleet. The need for reconnaissance aircraft has increased in the present context. The number of reconnaissance and Sea Harrier aircraft in the Navy has decreased over the past years. However, this shortfall is being met by induction of additional Dornier aircraft, procurement of MiG-29K and Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft. Limited upgrade of Sea Harrier aircraft undertaken through M/s. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is expected to be completed by 2009.

Declaration of 2007 as year of water

t*193. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that even after year 2007 being declared as year for water, there are several villages which are deprived of drinking water;

if so, the details of such villages, State-wise; and

the efforts Government is making to provide water in these villages?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Water is a State subject and State Governments are responsible to provide drinking water to the rural areas. To supplement the efforts of the State, financial assistance is provided to the States through Centra!', ■ sponsored, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The State Governments are competent to plan, sanction and implement rurai water supply schemes from the funds provided under ARWSP. Under ARWSP, unit of coverage for providing drinking water supply is habitation and not village. Status of potable water availability in **a** village or habitation is dynamic in nature and is dependent on many factors *viz.* quantum **of** rainfall, operation and maintenance of existing systems, changes

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.